

Weekly Column for July 13, 2006

Earlier this week we took a very exciting step in improving recreation opportunities for the young kids in the City of Troy.

When I delivered my State of the City speech back in February we promised that we would make a significant change at the Frear Park Ice Rink to allow for better uses by a greater cross-section of the population.

We have accomplished early success on that front by opening a summer basketball camp at the rink for the next nine weeks. Though the program is well into its first official week, but there is plenty of room to sign new kids up, and spread the word to everyone you know.

The best part of the whole thing, is that the camp is free. That's right, this will not cost you a dime. We will even throw in a free lunch, provided by Rensselaer County.

Earl Harrison and Al Prader are running the camp for the next nine weeks, so all of the children will certainly be in good hands. Life lessons and basketball, all rolled into one.

Much like the first attempt we had at River Street Festival, we really are putting this whole thing together on the run, but I am convinced it will be successful. For those of you that don't know, the rink at Frear Park has generally been used for hockey for many years. We hope to add different activities throughout this year, and into the next few summers to offer more and more for kids to do in the City.

Anyone interested in signing their child up for the camp can simply show up any morning and talk to one of the gentlemen running the show, or you can call the City of Troy Recreation Director George Rogers at 270-4624. The camp runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.

On another basketball related note, Jason and Jarron Collins, twin brothers from the National Basketball Association, will make their annual trek to Troy this weekend for a basketball camp at Doyle Middle School. As I have said the last two years, these two fine young men are a terrific example of what hard work can accomplish, and I truly do appreciate them taking time out of their off-season schedule to teach kids not only about basketball, but life as well.

It's going to be an extremely hot weekend coming up, please stay cool, and be smart. Have a terrific weekend.

Harry J Tutunjian  
Mayor of Troy